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FLOOR DEBATE

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SENATOR HUDKINS: No.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Is it your belief that if the bill were passed and the Governor were to sign it, there is no connection between these two things, by the way, do you believe that at the time this bill would take effect the economy is going to have improved considerably? And I know you're not a fortune teller, but from the way things are going do you think by next year things are going to improve quite a bit?

SENATOR HUDKINS: Well, we have heard from both coasts that financially things are beginning to pick up there and, you know, it's kind of a trickle-down theory. We didn't get as bad as...as early as the coasts did, so we probably won't heal as quickly as they did. But they're starting to heal so we can only hope that it will move this way quickie...quickly.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Do you think that because Nebraska is so far behind on most things that by the time Nebraska begins to heal the rest of the state will be in full-blown recession?

SENATOR HUDKINS: I would sure hope not.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Me too. That's all I will ask you. Thank you, Senator Hudkins. Members of the Legislature, I'm not going to get too deeply into this discussion because, although I have opinions both ways, I don't see the bill as having a chance, practically speaking, of being enacted into law, but I believe it is wholesome to have the discussion to get some things into the record. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Smith. Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Kristensen, members of the Legislature, just a quick point again on the financial situation. Even if you accepted the committee amendment to put the operative date to July of 2003, remember that 2003-2004, 2004-2005, the next biennium, is a biennium where we're still in trouble. We're still in trouble. Even if we take the action recommended by the Appropriations and Revenue Committee, you're